



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
LANSING

ROBERT MORRIS  
CHAIR

**(Approved)**

**Minutes of the Meeting held December 14, 2007**  
**8:30 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Morris, Chair  
Michael Prince  
Anne Corgan  
Capt. Robert Powers  
Dwight Sinila  
Pamela Hall  
Linda Scarpetta  
Sheriff Al Byam  
Steven Puuri  
Chief David Stamm

**REPRESENTING**

Office of the Governor  
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)  
Department of State (MDOS)  
Department of State Police (MSP)  
Department of Education (MDOE)  
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)  
Department of Community Health (MDCH)  
Local Representative  
Local Representative  
Local Representative

**STAFF**

Deb Sonnenberg

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

John Friend

Department of Transportation (MDOT)

**GUESTS**

Bob Lariviere  
Jack Peet  
Gary Bubar  
Robin Shivley  
Carol Reagan  
Ron Wilson  
Jim Culp  
Brian Zimmerman  
Mark Bott  
Lance Binoniemi  
Jackie El-Sayed  
Kathy Farnum  
Jason Hamblen  
Lawrence Hummel

**REPRESENTING**

AAA Michigan  
AAA Michigan  
AAA Michigan  
MDCH-EMS  
MDOS  
MDOS  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MLBA  
MTSC  
OHSP  
OHSP  
Van Buren Co. Road Commission

Chair Robert Morris called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. A Roll Call of the GTSAC members was taken establishing a quorum was present.

**Public Comment/Announcement Items**

None

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Community Health  
Dwight Sinila, Education • Anne Corgan, State • Capt. Robert Powers, State Police • John C. Friend, Transportation •  
Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative  
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

**Approval of the October 26, 2007 GTSAC Meeting Minutes**

Chair Morris requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the GTSAC meeting of October 26, 2007. Chief Stamm made the motion to approve which was seconded by Mr. Puuri. Motion carried.

**Chair's Reports/Updates – Robert Morris**

Chair Morris received letter from Governor Granholm acknowledging receipt of the Commission's correspondence concerning the helmet repeal bill. In the letter, Governor Granholm stated she agrees with many of the Commission's concerns and remains opposed to the repeal and will veto the legislation.

**Legislative Report – Sgt. Matt Bolger - Absent**

None

**GTSAC Commissioner Updates**➤ **Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Mr. Jim Culp for John Friend**

Mr. Jim Culp discussed MDOT's new winter maintenance program. One of the objectives of the new program was to gain uniformity county to county and eliminate the "checkerboard effect" where one county may have two lanes of the freeway cleared but the adjoining county may only have one lane cleared thus causing motorist confusion and crashes. Mr. Culp encouraged feedback from counties on the new policy. Mr. Morris reiterated that future GTSAC safety endeavors should include education of motorists on winter driving since most mishaps are due to drivers not driving according to road/weather conditions.

➤ **Department of State (DOS) – Ms. Anne Corgan**

Ms. Corgan reported she will represent Secretary of State Land on the CMU Deer Center Board.

Recently, DOS partnered with the Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS) to distributed 30,000 Are You Truck Smart brochures via the branch officers.

DOS is making plans to have a Secretary of State booth at the Detroit Auto Show. A traffic safety message will be identified to be the focus of the booth.

DOS is in full roll-out of the new driver education curriculum. DOS has conducted over 75 workshops to date and trained over 1,500 instructors. The training and curriculum have received many positive comments and is very well-received.

DOS is in the process of recruiting two new rider-coach trainers in the motorcycle program. Four trainers are currently under contract to train the trainers.

➤ **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Ms. Pamela Hall**

Earlier this year, the National Center for Senior Transportation issued a request for grant proposals. OSA, in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging, applied for a grant to establish a senior mobility resource center to provide a place for seniors to obtain information and education materials on safe driving. OSA met with AARP and the Area Agency on Aging to discuss the merger of their You Decide and We Need to Talk programs to support the grant application. The decision was to apply for the grant under the You Decide program.

Ms. Hall visited the Deer Center at CMU in November. She was very impressed with the center and simulator. OSA hopes to continue to work with the Deer Center in the future.

➤ **Department of Community Health (MDCH) – Ms. Linda Scarpetta**

Ms. Scarpetta provided a legislative update on the Booster Seat bill. It is hoped the bill would be before the Governor to sign by the end of January to enable Michigan to apply for funding in 2008.

MDCH is actively planning 2008 classes in certification and recertification for CPS technicians, child passenger safety and EMS, child passenger safety in buses, and child passenger safety for special needs individuals.

MDCH is also developing programs for outreach to underserved counties that don't have child passenger safety activities and to Head Start.

The 2007 bike helmet grant from OHSP resulted in 7,800 helmets being distributed to children and adults. Approximately 335,000 people attended CPS events conducted by local agencies where 9,400 pieces of education materials were distributed.

MDCH worked with UMTRI and the CDC to prepare an abstract which was submitted to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) which was subsequently selected for presentation at their annual meeting in Washington, DC. The TRB's annual meeting will also include a booster seat session and presentations on parents' attitudes toward booster seat use, use of booster seats when not required by law, and highlight the results of two booster seat demonstration projects (urban and Hispanic populations) conducted in Michigan. This national exposure has resulted in high visibility for Michigan's programs.

➤ **Department of Education (MDOE) – Mr. Dwight Sinila**

Mr. Sinila reported that MDOE is continuing to work on updating the school bus driver medical examination program which requires an amendment in legislation.

For at least the last 10 years, MDOE has received \$1.4 million each year to train over 20,000 pupil transportation individuals in school bus driver and supervisor training. Given the higher costs now involved to conduct the training MDOE is seeking an increase in the funding. This year, for the first time, DOE has sent representatives to the 15 training agencies to conduct on-site audits to evaluate the quality of training, accounting systems, and survey students. The results of these audits will be used to ensure the quality of the training programs.

One of the major responsibilities DOE has with pupil transportation is the approval of the curriculum for school bus driver and supervisor training. DOE has recently received approval on a new training chapter addressing special education students. A revised chapter on vehicle inspections is also in the approval process.

In cooperation with AAA and MSP, MDOE is in the final stages of updating the Crossing Guard Curriculum.

➤ **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

Genesee County is moving ahead with the SPF-SIG grant to engage all law enforcement in the same direction on the underage drinking component of safety. The goal is to also tie their efforts together with the GTSAC action teams of Young Drivers and Underage Drinking and Impaired Driving.

The Fatal Alcohol Crash Team has been in alcohol/drug related accident reconstruction training for two weeks. Twenty offices from various Genesee and Oakland county agencies have participated.

Chief Stamm reminded everyone that the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) conference is in February. Registration forms are available on the MACP web site.

Genesee County is initiating a OWI forfeiture program similar to what Eric Smith developed in Macomb County. Currently, ten judges have agreed to participate.

Enforcement agencies in Genesee County are collaborating to develop an enforcement plan to reduce traffic crashes and fatalities using data collected on high-crash intersections.

➤ **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**

Sheriff Byam expressed his concern of the effects reduced budgets will have on traffic safety. He predicts the impact to be quite large. He stated there would be a greater concern next year when the revenue sharing issue is due for reconsideration. The five-year fund the counties established due to the tax shift will soon be used up thus raising concern over the legislature's future revenue sharing decisions.

➤ **Local Representation – Mr. Steven Puuri**

Mr. Puuri reported that county road commissions have their 2008 budgets in place. Although the organization has reduced its size by 10 percent, they are doing their best to maintain service.

Last fall, MDOT issued new statewide winter maintenance guidelines. Budgetary constraints have resulted in a reduction in overtime monies available thus one component of the new guidelines stipulates that when in overtime status, snow removal on low volume roads will consist of one pass down the center of the road. During straight-time status, the roads would be cleared thoroughly.

The Safe Routes to School program is progressing well in Washtenaw County. The road commission is working with a third school and also engaging townships in the endeavor. The program is being well-received by the communities.

➤ **Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Robert Powers**

Operation Safe Driver – This new initiative was held the week of October 21, 2007, throughout all North America. The objective of the initiative was to promote awareness of the driver factors that cause most crashes involving large trucks. Although data from the enforcement blitz is not available yet, Captain Powers reported Michigan's efforts were very successful in promoting safety by drawing more attention to the affects of distracted driving.

Hours of Service Federal Regulation Rule Change – Captain Powers stated the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued an interim rule reinstating the previous rule that has been in effect for the last two years. Issuing this interim rule will provide more time to fully evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed rule in the long-term.

Transportation Reauthorization Bill – Captain Powers reported that every six years the federal government passes a transportation reauthorization bill that outlines the programs and funding for all modes of transportation for the next six years. The current bill is to expire in 2009.

MDOT is the lead agency for Michigan and will be putting together a reauthorization package that Governor Granholm will submit. Captain Powers, and other members of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee, are charged with developing commercial vehicle recommendations to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Captain is reaching out to individuals and organizations he works with to obtain their thoughts and ideas for programs that could be funded or implemented through the reauthorization. Please contact him by March 1, 2008, to share your ideas.

Chair Morris suggested a meeting of the agencies/individuals involved in the reauthorization process be arranged to discuss from a traffic safety standpoint collective recommendations to be submitted. Mike Prince was assigned to initiate this meeting.

➤ **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Mr. Michael Prince**

The Over The Limit. Under Arrest drunk driving campaign kicks off tomorrow December 15. More than 180 law enforcement agencies are participating in this two-week federally-funded statewide drunk driving crackdown aimed to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities during the Christmas and New Year's holiday season. During the 2006 Christmas and New Year's holiday period 10 people died in Michigan traffic crashes of which 30 percent involved alcohol.

One additional drunk driving crackdown has been added this year to take place over the July 4 holiday, which is another peak drunk driving time. Following that is the Labor Day national crackdown.

The Click it Or Ticket safety belt mobilization will again be over Memorial weekend. OHSP is ramping up for a big year in 2008. The goal is to have Michigan be the highest belt use state in the country. Currently Michigan is ranked second behind Washington State.

MSP Director Col. Peter C. Munoz was a speaker at this weeks MADD Red Ribbon news event at Elmhurst Elementary School in Lansing where he talked about the enforcement that will take place throughout the state.

The 2008 Traffic Safety Summit registration brochure is printed and will be mailed out shortly. It will also be made available on the OHSP web site. All of the general session speakers have been identified based on input from GTSAC members and many others throughout the state. The General Session topics will include the future of traffic safety, teens and driving distractions, UMTRI's cutting-edge research, drowsy driving, and the changing face of the news media. There is a diverse agenda that will appeal to many traffic safety disciplines. Feel free to copy the registration packet or the web link to others you think may be interested in attending.

OHSP staff recently returned from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Region V Conference. This is an annual meeting which includes OHSP and its counterparts in six-states. An outstanding presentation was made by Mr. Jim Nichols who is a retiree of UMTRI. He provided a review of the regional crash data which placed Michigan at the top of the reduced crash category. Also, Region V was the only region in the country where every state recorded a reduction in fatalities in 2006.

To compliment OHSP's drunk driving and safety belt enforcement campaigns, a new campaign on red light running has been initiated. Posters with a strong enforcement theme have been produced and will be issued to agencies conducting intersection enforcement. Agencies are strongly advised to work with their local engineers and MDOT to ensure the locations selected are suitable for enforcement and not the result of engineering or some other issue.

Don McNamara, NHTSA's Region V Administrator, is retiring at the end of December after a distinguished 18 year career in traffic safety. Mr. McNamara will continue to be active in traffic safety teaming up with Mr. Phil Haseltine to develop referendum initiatives with the states. Mr. McNamara's administrator's position at the regional office in Chicago has been posted if anyone is interested in applying for it.

### **Action Team Reports**

- **Commercial Vehicle Safety – Dr. Jacqueline El-Sayed, Chair, Michigan Truck Safety Commission**  
Dr. El-Sayed provided an overview of the Truck Safety Commission's accomplishments for 2006 and presented everyone with a copy of its 2006 Annual Report.
- **Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety – Lisa Grost & Deirdre Thompson**  
No presentation.
- **Motorcycle Safety – Mr. Ron Wilson**  
Mr. Wilson reported on the action team's 2007 accomplishments in their six strategy areas. Under the enforcement area, MSP developed a supplemental crash report to capture critical motorcycle crash data on rider injuries, safety gear, and vehicle information. The MSP Traffic Safety Division's Traffic Services Section made enhancements to the law enforcement web site to educate officers on DOT approved helmets versus novelty helmets.

In the area of education and licensing, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land conducted a press conference in May for Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. MSP's and LPD's motor units were on display, and safety training demonstrations were conducted to educate and increase awareness of what is involved in a motorcycle training course.

To raise public awareness of the importance to obtain a motorcycle endorsement, the action team partnered with OHSP and DOS to produce a new poster for 2007 depicting "Got your CY? endorsement. Crash data indicates a significant population involved in serious and fatal crashes did not have endorsements. The posters will be available at MDOT welcome centers, SOS branch offices, dealerships, etc.

Also produced was a palm card to educate both the motorist and the motorcyclist. One side provides awareness and responsibilities of the motorist, and the other side addresses the responsibilities of the motorcyclist to be safe. The palm cards will also be available at driver education training centers, MDOT welcome centers, SOS branch offices, dealerships, etc.

Two new motorcycle knowledge tests were implemented in 2007 based on Michigan's Motorcycle Operator Manual and the most current training course curriculum.

In the Judicial category, Mr. Wilson acknowledged Dave Wallace, Carol Reagan, and Jason Hamblen for putting together presentation materials that PAAM membership can use in community outreach initiatives to address motorcycle safety.

In the Engineering/Roadway Management category, MDOT developed motorist awareness signage for construction zones and where the lane rumble strips will be installed. Roadway agencies are also making adjustments to the sensitivity of signal looping due to the light weight of motorcycles. There was also a collaboration with SOS to provide safety messages on MDOT message boards in Detroit and Grand Rapids corridors during May Motorcycle Awareness Month. Over 90 message boards were utilized.

Under legislation, Secretary Land created a Motorcycle Advisory Committee, which was chaired by Dr. El-Sayed, to assess and recommend legislative changes in motorcycle training and licensing. The committee's recommendations are currently under consideration.

Training programs initiated during 2007 included SOS increasing the motorcycle training programs from 19 in 2004 to 30 in 2007 allowing a record 12,000 students being trained this season. A federal grant provided the opportunity for five regional professional development courses in 2007 to enhance instructor skills and provide training consistency. In FY08, OHSP funding will enable 1,200 students to be trained and the acquisition of approximately 24 new replacement training motorcycles to be added to the program's fleet.

The action team has been actively seeking new partnerships. Mr. Jack Peet representing AAA Michigan has joined the team and contact with the Michigan Motorcycle Dealers Association had been made to encourage their participation.

Mr. Wilson expressed that Secretary Land is very pleased with the collaborative nature of the GTSAC membership and the traffic safety community and looks forward to forming new relationships in the future.

Mike Prince mentioned that motorcycle issues were addressed at the NHTSA Regional meeting in Chicago. He cited examples of what some of the other states are doing to address motorcycle safety. Jason Hamblen will be receiving information on the other states' programs to share with the action team.

**State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Implementation – Capt. Robert R. Powers, MSP**

Captain Powers provided an overview of how the MSP Traffic Safety Division utilizes the SHSP and Action Team plans in their overall planning and decision making process. A copy of the presentation may be obtained by contacting the OSHP office at (517) 333-5301.

**Sobriety Court Video – Mr. Jason Hamblen, OHSP**

Jason Hamblen explained that the Sobriety Court program, (also referred to as DUI Court program) is usually initiated by a judge. The program provides an enhanced specialized treatment and penalty system for certain drunk driving offenders. There are 30 programs in the state, some beginning in the early 1990s. Michigan is recognized as the national leader in DUI Courts. The courts are funded in part by the State Court Administrators Office, the Office of Drug Control Policy, private organizations, and local county funds. Fees and fines from offenders also provide funding.

Mr. Hamblen shared a video developed by the 61<sup>st</sup> District Court in Grand Rapids outlining their program and includes following some of the participants throughout the year. The point of the video is to share the good news about DUI Courts and their effectiveness to lower the taxpayer burden. The video has been shared with communities and courts that are not familiar with the program to inform them of program's benefits. Free copies of the video are available on DVD or VHS by contacting Mr. Hamblen at (517) 333-5319.

**EMS Services/Reassessment – Ms. Robin Shively, MDCH**

Ms. Shively reported that all states are mandate to create an all-inclusive statewide trauma system and that Michigan is one of only five states without one. MDCH has been given broad overview for the development, coordination, and administration of a statewide emergency medical services system. This system is defined as a comprehensive and integrated arrangement of the emergency services personnel, facilities, equipment, services, communications, medical control authorities, and organizations necessary to provide trauma care to all patients within a particular geographic region.

MDCH is actively moving ahead in the implementation process including obtaining dedicated funding. One of the major hurdles is data collection. MDCH has been working to develop a uniform electronic data capture system it hopes to be operational in 2008.

Ms. Shively's complete presentation is available by contacting the OHSP office at (517) 333-5301.

**Other Business**

- **SHSP Update - Ms. Kathy Farnum**

Ms. Farnum presented the SHSP update process proposals that were developed. It is proposed to wait until spring to convene an update meeting to allow time for 2007 data to be compiled. An all-day off-site meeting is proposed, possibly utilizing the next GTSAC meeting date of April 18 in lieu of a separate meeting date. This would be a working meeting comprised of all of the GTSAC Commissioners and the chairs of all action teams.

Ms. Farnum stated that when the first SHSP was developed, an outside facilitator, Mr. Rudy Umbs of FHWA, was obtained and proved very effective. Contact was made with Mr. Umbs and he is available if the Commission chooses to use his services again. Mr. Umbs mentioned that very few if any states are considering updating their SHSP, so once again Michigan would be leading this effort nationally.

An agenda will be developed outlining the day's activities which should provide an indication of how long the task should take.

Chair Morris called for Commissioner approval of Ms. Farnum's proposals. All agreed.

- **GTSAC Web Site – Ms. Kathy Farnum**

Ms. Farnum provided a report of the number of hits the GTSAC web site main page and each of the action teams pages had in 2007. The numbers indicate good activity for the site.

- **GTSAC Traffic Safety Awards Selection – Debbie Savage**

Ms. Savage acknowledged the efforts of the selection committee in reviewing the 29 nominations for the GTSAC Traffic Safety Awards and stated this year there was much diversity in the nominations received. Due to the excellent recommendations submitted for the three Long-term awards, the selection committee decided to add a fourth long term award. Ms. Savage provided an overview of the 15 nominations selected explaining each one's qualifications for an award. Discussion was held concerning the length of the awards program due to the increased number of awards to be presented. Ms. Savage stated that creative means will be developed to move the program along.

Chair Morris called for a motion to accept the 15 nominations as presented by Ms. Savage. Mr. Prince made the motion which was supported by Captain Powers. Motion carried.

**GTSAC Administrative Items**

None

**Misc. Handouts**

Updated Action Team Chair Roster

2008 Action Team Chair Reporting Schedule

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.**

**Next Meeting - February 22, 2008**

All meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Collins Centre Presentation room unless stated otherwise.